

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY SENATOR TARVER

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Norma Jean Jernigan Blake of Shreveport.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the death of Norma Jean Jernigan Blake on April 21, 2018, after being stricken with a massive stroke, at age eighty; and

WHEREAS, she was born on January 22, 1938, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to the late Claude and Nancy (Gilliam) Jernigan, was a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School, and there she met her husband, Pastor Harry Blake; and they were married on August 31, 1958, and are the parents of four children; and

WHEREAS, while, her husband, Pastor Harry Blake is a recognized icon in the Civil Rights Movement, she was the force behind the force that lead to justice and equality for many; she was the First Lady of the Mount Canaan Missionary Baptist Church for fifty-two years where she was also an active member; and

WHEREAS, Norma Jean Blake is survived by her beloved husband of fifty-nine years; daughters, Elizabeth (Kerek), Monica (Collier); sons, Harry (Evelyn) and Rodney; sixteen grandchildren; one sister, Claude Ester; brothers-in-law Herman (Mary) and Robert Blake; a sister-in-law, Carol Blake Rachal (John); and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives; and

WHEREAS, in every circumstance in which she served, Norma Jean Jernigan Blake was known and loved as the epitome of a pastor's wife, whether in the local church pastorate or the administrative work of the district; her happy personality and dedication to Christ and His church inspired and challenged all whom she met; and

WHEREAS, the loss of Norma Jean Jernigan Blake has left a tremendous void in her community and has created a genuine sense of sorrow in the hearts of all whose lives she touched.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Norma Jean Jernigan Blake of Shreveport, does hereby express enduring appreciation for her contributions during a lifetime of dedication and service to her family, friends, church, and community, and does hereby recognize that her legacy will live forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew and loved her.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Pastor Harry Blake.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE